

December 18, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that he has successfully secured \$300,000 in congressionally-directed funding (commonly known as earmarks) for Cayuga County's Interoperable Communications Systems upgrade, which will enhance communication capabilities for local first responders.

"Improving the ability of our emergency services to efficiently and effectively service our local communities is critical to our entire region," **Arcuri said**, "Funding to upgrade the Cayuga County Interoperable Communications System is going to be used to better serve the local community and help keep our residents safe."

These funds will be used to upgrade the communications system for all first responders in the City of Auburn and Cayuga County. Currently, first responders are forced to use outdated radios that operate on different bands. This funding will help to create a seamless radio system which brings all of these agencies together.

Cayuga County Emergency Services is striving to eventually link its emergency communication system with those in the counties of Onondaga, Oswego and Cortland, allowing for rapid and cohesive response to all types of emergencies. This funding is a first step toward creating that link.

The funding secured by Arcuri for Cayuga County is included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which passed the House of Representatives on Thursday, December 10th, 2009 by a vote of 221-202 and passed the Senate last Saturday. The bill will now proceed to the President for his final signature.

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